

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-27 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ayala U.S. Patent No. 5,809,130 ("Ayala"). In order for there to be anticipation, each and every element of the claimed invention must be present in a single, prior reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Ayala.

As discussed in the Specification, the present invention relates to an improved supplementary service for telephone system users. In particular, group pickup is a supplementary service often used by one member station of a group to answer or pick up telephone calls intended for or ringing at a different member station *within the same call group*. The present invention allows supplementary services such as group pickup to be accomplished network-wide, with respect to both local and remote group members. That is, in one embodiment, a distributed architecture is provided in which group pickup service components are resident in every server which has members of one or more pickup groups. In another embodiment, group pickup service is resident at a group server only, but group members may be distributed across the network as members of one or more remote servers.

Thus, claim 1 has been amended and now recites "one or more call group locations associated with different ones of said one or more servers;" and "a group pickup request unit responsive to said invite request unit to establish a connection to a group pickup destination to enable a caller station to be picked up from said destination, said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations;"

Claims 9 and 12 recite "said destination comprising any of said one or more group locations associated with any of a plurality of said one or more servers" and claims 15 and 22 recite "wherein the calling station and selected call pickup station may be associated with different servers".

In contrast, as discussed in response to the previous Official Action, Ayala explicitly states that "stations are not divided into groups." Further, Ayala states that "[u]nlike Romero wherein an individual may pick up a call directed to another station only if both stations are in the *same group*, the present invention provides an individual with the capability to pick up a call from any station, regardless of its location." Col. 2, lines 23-26 (emphasis added). Thus, Ayala does not appear to have anything to do with *group pickup*. Instead, Ayala provides for reaching a *particular* intended recipient via one or more CPE devices. To this end, Ayala provides a single central office switch which queues calls and then sends paging or public address messages to an intended recipient, *not a group member*. The user must then log in and be specifically recognized as the intended recipient in order to be connected. *The recipient, however, is a specific recipient and not in a "group" as that term is generally understood in the term "group pickup."* That is, Ayala provides a pager-type system with a call connect feature, rather than a group pickup feature, as generally recited in the claims at issue.

As discussed in the Specification, a group pickup is a supplementary service often used by one member station of a group to answer or pick up telephone calls intended for or ringing at a different member station within the same call group. Such a service may be useful, for instance, where the intended call recipient has stepped away from the telephone or is generally not available to pick up the call, yet the call must still be answered. As such, *any other member* of the call group is able to pick up the call. In Ayala, however, apparently only the intended recipient can pick up the call. Because Ayala does not relate to a group pickup system, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.



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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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